

191

Observations and Remarks
ON THE TWO
ACCOUNTS
OF THE
BEHAVIOUR
OF THE
Late Earl of KILMARNOCK
AND THE
Late Lord BALMERINO.

[Price Six Pence.]

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191.
OBSERVATIONS

A N D

R E M A R K S

O N T H E T W O

A C C O U N T S

Lately Published, of the

B E H A V I O U R

O F *R. Boyd (W.)*

William late Earl of *Kilmarnock*

A N D O F

Arthur late Lord *Balmerino*,

While under Sentence of Death, and
at the Place of Execution.

L O N D O N,

Printed for M. COOPER in Pater-noster Row.

M D C C X L V I.

OBSERVATIONS

AND

REMARKS

ON THE TWO

ACCOUNTS

of the

OUR



William late Earl of Kilmarnock

AND OF

John late Lord Belhaven

While under Sentence of Death, and
at the Place of Execution.

LONDON,

Printed for M. Cooper in Pall-mall.

MDCCLXXV.

Observations and Remarks
 On the Two
 A C C O U N T S
 Of the BEHAVIOUR of the Late
 EARL of *KILMARNOCK*,
 And the Late
 LORD *BALMERINO*, &c.

THERE is hardly any Country in the World, in which better Effects may be hoped from public Executions, than in *England*, since it may be safely said, that there is no Country, where they are beheld with more Attention, or where every minute

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nute Circumstance, relating to Persons who suffer in this Manner, is so carefully collected, and so strictly consider'd. We talk to this Day of Sir *Tho. More's* Behaviour on the Scaffold, and there are many very well acquainted with it, who would yet be to seek if they were ask'd in what Part of *Henry VIII's* Reign he suffered. This Disposition is certainly very useful, inasmuch as it puts it out of the Power of any Sort of People to misrepresent Facts of this Nature, and thereby hinder their being transmitted in their true Light to Posterity, who find them not the least instructive, or entertaining Part of History.

WITH Respect to the two Lords, who lately suffered upon Tower-Hill, we have a couple of Relations as singular and as opposite as any
that

that were ever publish'd on the like Occasion. To say the Truth, I cannot help thinking, that these Accounts very much resemble the Lords who suffered; the First of them is hasty, vehement and full of Fire, like it's Hero, the Lord *Balmerino*; the Second is calm, gentle and full of Moderation, like its Subject, the Earl of *Kilmarnock*; and if those unfortunate Noblemen may be allow'd to have been lucky in any Accident whatever, attending so melancholy a Catastrophy as their's, I think it was in having two such Historians to commemorate their dying Behaviour as the zealous Mr. *F——d*, and the accurate Mr. *F——r*.

IT is the Observation of a celebrated *French* Wit, that there are two Objects, upon which the natu-

ral and intellectual Eyes of Men cannot be fixed, with any Degree of Constancy: And these Objects, according to him, are the dazzling Brightness of the *Sun*, and the gloomy Prospect of *Death*. But with Submission to this great Man, the latter is an Object that does not always startle *Britons*, and the present melancholy Occasion furnishes us with two remarkable Instances of Men's considering it with much Steadiness, and that too, in as different Lights as can well be imagined; for perhaps there never were two Noblemen, more distinct, in Point of Notions, Tempers and Characters, than the late Earl of *Kilmar-nock* and Lord *Balmerino*.

THE former of these was in the Flower of his Age, the Chief of the noble Family of *Boyd*, but
without

without any following, for this is a Lowland *Name* and not a *Clan*. His Lordship's Ancestors have born almost every great Office in their native Country, and stand distinguished in the *Scottish* History, as gallant Commanders and able Statesmen. His Lordship's Father was a very zealous Whig, not from Views of Advantage, or for the Sake of Places and Pensions, but from Principle, and in the last Rebellion he raised in the Town of *Kilmar-nock* and it's Neighbourhood 200 Men for the Service of King *George*, by Dint of his personal Interest; which shews at once, the Sincerity of his Loyalty, and how much he was beloved in his Country; for the late Lord, when he took contrary Measures, did not carry in a Man to the Rebels. It was upon this Occasion that the unhappy Person,

Person, of whom we are speaking, then Lord *Boyd*, first bore Arms, and shewed such Alacrity and Zeal in the Service as gave the Earl his Father great Satisfaction ; and indeed there was no Family in *Scotland* more unlikely to engage in an Attempt like that for which he suffered, than his own.

HIS Lordship's Education in the University of *Glasgow* contributed to fix him in his Family Principles, as well as to give him a Tincture of Learning, which, together with his natural Abilities, were sufficient to distinguish a Man of his Rank ; so that he passed with his particular Acquaintance, as well as the World in general, for a young Nobleman of good Sense and quick Parts. He often resided in *London* for several Months, and

and the Company he kept was such as visibly shewed his Affection and Attachment to the present Government: And though his Lordship might be a Man of Pleasure, and affect to talk freely about Religion, yet it is very certain, that he never shewed the least Sign of being dissatisfied with, much less deserting the Principles in which he had been educated; but the Smallness of his Fortune, and an expensive Way of Life, brought him into difficult Circumstances, with which some other untoward Accidents concurred, at the Time the Rebellion broke out. It is not however probable, that he had any Notion of going into it before the Advantage gained by the Rebels at *Preston-Pans*, which was greatly magnified by such as had an Interest in so doing;

ing; and this, it plainly appears, tempted him to think of bettering his Fortune by joining those who were then reputed victorious : But it is very remarkable, that his Lordship entirely acquits his Countess of having had any Share in persuading him to this Resolution ; on the contrary, he affirms, and under his Circumstances we ought not to doubt the Truth of what he says, she dissuaded him all that was in her Power.

IT is very apparent, that he never had considered the Step he was taking, with any Degree of that Attention the Importance of it required, since it seems he did not discover it's Repugnance to his former Principles ; for he very ingenuously professes, that he had no Intention to promote either
Arbitrary

Arbitrary Power or Popery; which, however it may affect his Character for good Sense, most certainly takes off from the Imputation of his having a bad Heart; since it may be presumed, that if he had attended to the Consequences, he would never have embarked in such a Design: But he flattered himself with false Hopes of bringing about a Revolution, which might prove advantageous to himself, and free him from those Inconveniencies that were the Result of his former inconsiderate Temper; for which Rashness he paid with his Life.

UNDER these Circumstances he became a Prisoner, was brought to his Trial, and, upon his own Confession, adjudged to suffer Death. It is easy to conceive, that few

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Persons

Persons have been under greater Disadvantages in such a Situation than he was, and yet no body could well behave better. Instead of putting on an affected Intrepidity, he shewed a just Concern rather for his Character than his Fate. He recurred to his first Principles, and maintained them to the last, though he was sensible there was no Room left for Mercy. He took Shame to himself by a frank Confession of all his Errors of a publick and private Nature ; but he took Care to distinguish how far he was, and how far he was not guilty. He acknowledged an Artifice made use of at his Trial, which never could have been known but from himself ; yet he disclaims the Knowledge of any Order for giving no Quarter, and is particularly careful to free himself

self from those Imputations of Cruelty, which Report had thrown upon him. He shewed great Meekness in receiving the Instructions of his spiritual Guide, in complying with all that he required, and in parting with the Lieutenant at the Tower; he discovered a deep and serious Recollection while in the Room with the Sheriffs, gave all the Satisfaction that could be expected from him, with respect to his Sense of his Crime and sincere Repentance. The Method he took to prepare for Death, was that most agreeable to Reason, and yet most shocking to the Senses: He took Care to be informed of every particular Circumstance relating to the Ceremony, that he might not be surprized; and in reflecting upon these he might be said to die often. But notwithstanding

this Precaution, he was shocked at coming upon the Scaffold ; the *Spectacle*, it seems, was more awful than the *Picture* of it in his Imagination, and he could not help saying, *that it was terrible*. But for all that, he brought himself to die with great Calmness and Decency, and this notwithstanding several little Accidents, which, by retarding the Execution, might have disconcerted him. There is indeed one Thing very strange, and in which the two Accounts differ widely. It is said by Mr. *F——d*, that his Head was not *beld up* and *exposed*, at his *particular Request*; it is averred by Mr. *F——r*, that he spoke of this as a Thing of *no Significancy*, and that did not in the *least affect him*; and he plainly intimates his doubting, that he ever made such a Request; but at
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the same Time he tells us, that his Lordship was very much concerned for fear his Head should roll about the Scaffold, as not being willing that his Body should appear with any unnecessary Indecency, after the just Sentence of the Law was satisfied. His Concern about one Circumstance, and Unconcern about the other, is equally wonderful.

SUCH as have affected to criticise this Lord's Behaviour, do not seem thoroughly to have comprehended his Character, to have considered that there are many different Kinds of Courage, or to have remembered, that there are almost as many Ways of dying as of living. They compare his Death perhaps with that of his Countryman, the Marquis of *Montrose*, and by making

ing so ill founded a Comparison, they fall very naturally upon a wrong Conclusion. They ought to take in all the Circumstances attending his Death, and above all, his dying self-condemned, as well as by the Sentence of the Law, which Remark may direct them to Comparisons that will not at all depreciate his Lordship's Behaviour: As for Instance, Sir *Alex. Carew*, whom the long Parliament punished with Death for designing to desert the Cause of Liberty; the two *Hothams*, Father and Son, who died for the like Offence, and perhaps we may take in also Duke *H——n*, who had chang'd Sides, and was believed in Point of Principle to be on that Side by which he suffered. Whoever enquires into these Particulars, will perceive that the Earl of *Kilmar-*
nock

nock died with as much Firmness as could be expected; and that though the Charge of Inconsistency lies very strongly against the Actions of his Life, yet his whole Deportment at his Death was very decent, very christian, and very consistent. The Sweetness and Gentleness of his Temper accompanied him to the last, and though he might be and indeed was moved with the dreadful Apparatus of his Death, yet perhaps that Sight would have moved him greatly, if another had been to suffer; but that he was not disconcerted is certain, so that he stands well intitled to every good Man's Pity.

ARTHUR

ARTHUR Lord *Balmerino* was descended of a younger Branch of the Noble House of *Elphinston*, and his Character, in every Respect, was the Reverse of Lord *Kilmar-nock's*. He was in the Decline of Life, had been educated in the Principles for which he died, and had always distinguished himself by his Zeal for them. He was not much acquainted with Books, and though he was very quick in Repartee, yet he never affected to reason. He had led a military Life, which gave him high Notions of Honour; and as he had a Commission in the late King's Service at the Battle of *Dumblane*, he discharged his Duty there as a Soldier, though he went over afterwards to the Rebels, from a Notion of Duty also. That there was great Inconsistency

sistency in this, no Man endued with rational Faculties can doubt ; but that the Hurry of his Thoughts and the peculiar Temper of the Man hindered him from seeing this Inconsistency, we may very easily conceive, because we see Instances of the same Kind daily in private Life.

HIS Fortune was always narrow, and at the Time of his engaging in the Rebellion, his Circumstances were very perplexed. He thought therefore, as he had no great Esteem for Life, he ran a less Risk than other Men ; and in this Notion he continued to his last Breath. His vehement Disposition made him very tenacious of what he thought right, and a long Habit of thinking in the same Way, hindered him, in all human Probability,

bability, from suspecting that he thought wrong. This kept up his Spirits, under all his Misfortunes; and as we have had many Examples of the same Kind, there is nothing wonderful or surprizing in that Steadiness, with which he died. His Thoughts were never divided, or divested from this Object; for as he had no Reason to flatter himself with Hopes, so it does not appear that he ever fed himself with any Expectations of Mercy, but from first to last looked for Death, and therefore was not astonished when he found it.

His great Ambition seems to have been acting one Part throughout, and the natural Generosity of his Temper made him far from desiring any Companion in his Misfortune; so that there is no Reason

Reason to doubt his Sincerity in wishing to have paid that Reckoning alone, which, as Mr. *F——r* says, was surely *very great*, but at the same Time very natural, as were also the two Testimonies he gave of Concern. The first was with Regard to the cruel Order for giving *no Quarter*, which he disavows, and desired an Interview with the Earl of *Kilmar-nock* in order to clear up this Point as far as possible, and the Reason he gave for it, as Mr. *F——d* tells us, was, he thought it not Military or becoming of a Soldier. Mr. *F——r* shews how this Order is at last fixed upon Lord *George Murray*, but what he subjoins of Lord *Balmerino's* thinking this should not affect his *P——* deserves some Explanation. His next Concern was, that his Character

might not suffer by the Boldness or Fierceness of his Behaviour. His Excuse for this is the most natural that can be, his Conscience was undisturbed, and this left him to act with Freedom; his Temper was lively and animated, and consequently so was his Deportment. His Life was a Burthen, which he had borne with Patience, though sensible of its Weight; he was rather glad than sorry to lay it down, and very truly stiled the Block his *Pillow of Rest*. This Expression is very emphatical, it is a Key to his whole Behaviour; there is nothing so effectually takes away the *Fear of Death* as a *Distaste of Life*. Lord *Balmerino* had no Fear, no Terror, or Apprehension at the Approach of Death; he considered it as the End of his Misfortunes,

tunes, and this brought him to it as to any other Action; and all he troubled himself about was to end as he began, and to let his Sun set with as *full* and *fair* a Light as it was possible. As this was his only Care, and he was no Way disturbed in his Attention to it, he might well die as he did; that is, with the same blunt Freedom with which he lived, careful of his Friends Sentiments about him, and careless of all the World's beside.

THUS we see, that both their Deaths were consistent enough with their Characters, though opposite to each other, as indeed their Characters were. But of the two surely the Earl of *Kilmarnock* had the hardest and most difficult Task. His Temper was susceptible of more Tenderness, his
 Crime

Crime was the Effect of a sudden Gust of temporary Views, of which he was ashamed long before he was in Danger; he trembled amidst the inconsiderable Advantages gained by the Rebels, and was all along under this dreadful and affecting Conviction, that his own Safety and that of his Country were incompatible. These Wounds in his Conscience, and a very rational, perhaps salutary Diffidence in his Repentance, made Death not only serious, but dreadful to him; yet he faced it. The Roughness of *Balmerino's* Nature prevented his feeling, and his military Course of Life had reconciled him to the Sight of Death; there remained therefore nothing here that could fright him; as to Hereafter the Prejudices of Education set him at Ease. To him neither
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the Thing nor the Circumstances were terrible, momentary Pain seemed a small Price to pay for eternal Rest. Upon these different Motives both (to the Eyes of Men) died well. *Kilmarnock* received DEATH as a Stranger with whom he would willingly have deferred his Acquaintance; but *Balmerino* met him as a Friend, whom having long expected he was glad to see. As Philosophers we may be allowed to regard Things in this Light; as good Subjects we are bound to approve that *Justice* which guards our *Safety*; as Men and Christians we ought to have Compassion, and may well think ourselves free to pity the Frailty of the one, and wonder at the Obstinacy of the other.

F I N I S.

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